

Message Text

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FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE DECLINED NOTICEABLY TODAY. FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY AL MAGHRIB WHICH DEVOTED A FULL PAGE TO THE SUMMIT YESTERDAY REPORTS NOTHING ON IT TODAY. EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN THE ARABIC AND FRENCH PRESS SUGGEST THAT THE SECRECY SURROUNDING THE NEGOTIATIONS CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF SEVERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TEL AVIV AND CAIRO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ISTIQLALI DAILY L'OPINION, THE ONLY FRENCH NEWSPAPER TO PRINT A COMMENTARY, ASKS "WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE?" JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR SAID FATMI ANSWERS HIS OWN QUESTION BY CONCLUDING THAT "IF DIALOGUE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS MAINTAINED AFTER CAMP DAVID, THEN THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE ACHIEVED THE MAJOR SHARE OF ITS OBJECTIVES." PRO-GOVERNMENT LE MATIN CITING AFP SOURCES DESCRIBES THE FIRST NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WHERE THE AMERICANS " ARE APPLYING A WISE AND METIC-
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ULOUS STRATEGY.....INTERVENING ONLY WHEN THE DISCUSSIONS (BETWEEN MR. SADAT AND MR. BEGIN) BREAK DOWN."

3. THREE ARABIC PAPERS PUBLISHED LONG EDITORIALS ON THE CONFERENCE. THE ISTIQLALI DAILY AL ALAM CLAIMS THAT "THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING CAMP DAVID PROVIDES NEW CONFIRMATION OF SEVERE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DIFFERENCES." SOCIALIST DAILY AL MUHARRIR

INTERPRETS AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AS "UNCERTAIN AND SCEPTICAL"
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ENCUMBERED BY "A LONG LIST OF POSSIBLE
COURSES OF ACTION INCLUDING ONE THAT TOTALS SEVENTY-TWO PAGES."
AL MITHAQ AL WATANI, PRO-GOVERNMENT IN EDITORIAL POLICY, POSES
THE QUESTION, " WILL ISRAEL ALLOW THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE TO
SLIP BY A SECOND TIME OR IS MR. BEGIN STILL ATTACHED TO THE
NOTION OF HIS COUNTRY ACQUIRING LAND FROM THE ARABS?"RENTSCHLER

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